

Appendix K

INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Comprehensive Management Plan is a project under the California Environmental Quality act that requires environmental analysis. This Appendix includes the full text of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration that was prepared and approved in conformance with the requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines.

INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE DECLARATION
pertaining to the
COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA

1. **Project title:** Comprehensive Management Plan for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area

2. **Lead agency name and address:**
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

3. **Contact persons and phone numbers:**
Paul Hofmann, Associate Wildlife Biologist Gregg Werner, Project Planner
530-934-9309 530-897-6374
500 Main Street
Chico California, 95928

Project location:

Thirteen separate Units along the Sacramento River between River Mile 245 and 215, in Colusa, Glenn Butte and Tehama Counties. Figure 1 depicts the location of the Wildlife Area.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

6. **General plan designation:**
Floodway (Colusa County)
Intensive Agriculture (Glenn County)
Agriculture (Butte County)
Habitat Reserve (Tehama County)

7. **Zoning:**
Floodway zoning district (Colusa County)
AE-40 zoning district (Glenn County)
Agricultural zoning districts (Butte County)
Primary Floodway zoning dist. (Tehama County)

8. **Description of project:**

The project is the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. The purpose of the Wildlife Area is to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife species, and to provide the public with compatible, wildlife-related recreational uses. The Wildlife Area has existed since 1980 and this Plan proposes continuation of an Ecosystem Approach to management of the riparian habitat. The Wildlife Area provides habitat for Special Status Species, game species and other native species.

This Plan consists of eight chapters as follows:

- I. Introduction
- II. Description of the Wildlife Area
- III. Description of Habitat and Species
- IV. Coordination with Other Programs
- V. Compatible Public Use
- VI. Management Goals
- VII. Operations and Maintenance

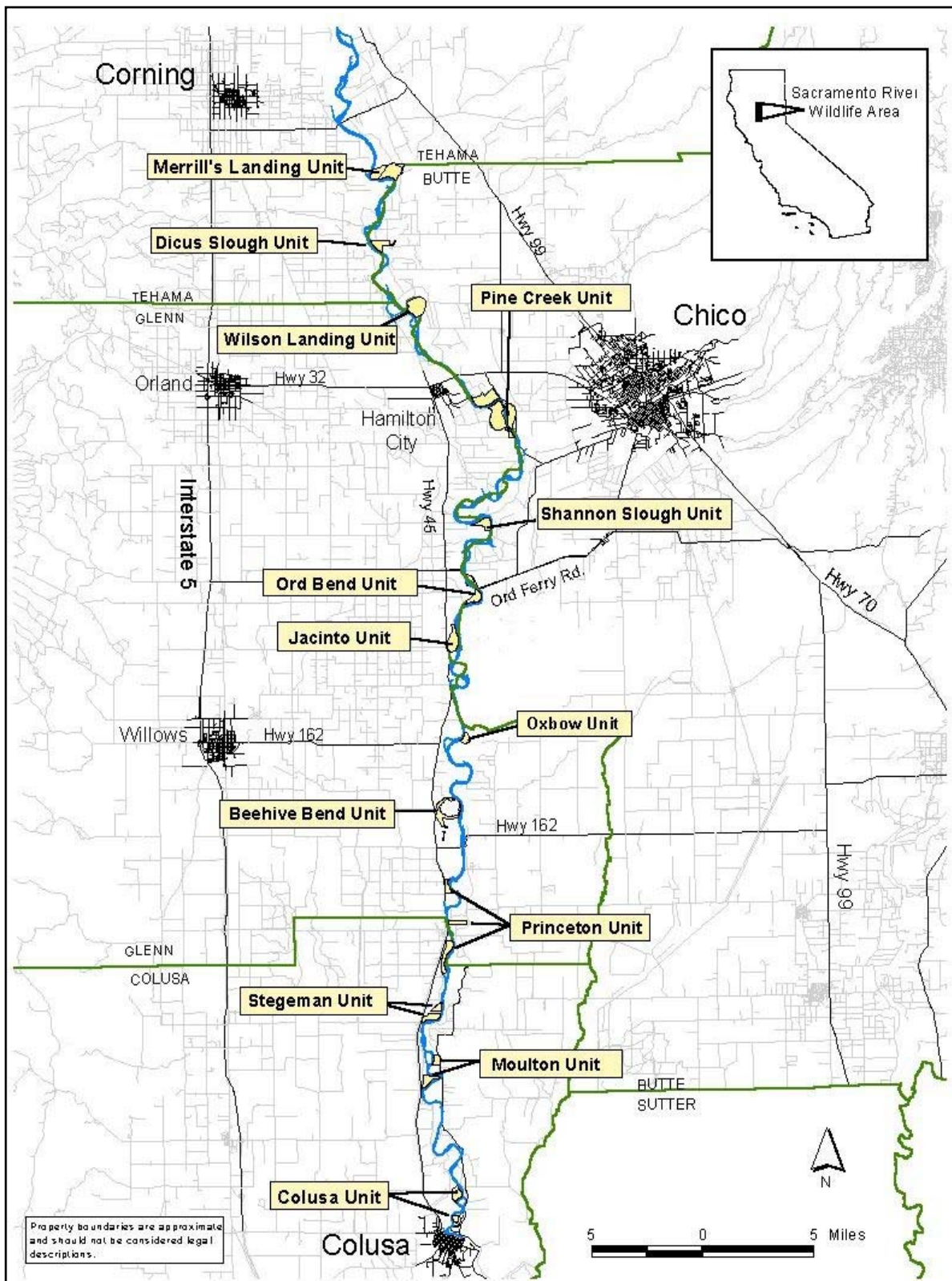


Figure 1. Location of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area

This Plan provides a description of the Wildlife Area and its environment with emphasis on the natural riverine processes that create and maintain riparian habitat and the plant communities and animals that occur in the Wildlife Area. It also includes an evaluation of public uses that are compatible with the Purpose of the Wildlife Area.

This Initial Study is intended to consider the whole of the project. As such, this project and this Negative Declaration includes the following components:

- The ongoing operation of the Wildlife Area including the public uses incorporated in this Plan.
- Maintenance activities to sustain the riparian habitat including control of nonnative, invasive species.
- Installation of minor improvements to the Wildlife Area, such as signing, that do not involve substantial physical disruption of the Wildlife Area.
- Installation of minor improvements to promote compatibility with adjoining property that do not involve substantial physical disruption of the Wildlife Area.
- Maintenance of improvements to the Wildlife Area.
- Conduct of monitoring activities and scientific research.
- Ongoing coordination with public agencies and private entities consistent with the objectives of this Plan.
- The provision of public information regarding the Wildlife Area that may include hardcopy and online data as well as other media.
- The combination of the Merrill's Landing Wildlife Area with the Sacramento River Wildlife Area.
- Update of Wildlife Area regulations.
- Enforcement of duly adopted laws and regulations.

This Plan is a general policy guide to the management of the Wildlife Area. It does not specifically authorize or make any precommitment to any substantive physical changes to the Wildlife Area. With the exception of minor operations and maintenance activities, any physical changes that are not currently approved will require subsequent authorizations and approvals. Because any such possible changes will be a part of projects, which have not yet been conceived, designed or funded, it is not possible to reasonably evaluate the impacts of any such subsequent projects. Any such subsequent projects not included within the scope of this project will require analysis pursuant to CEQA when such projects are conceived and proposed.

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:**

The Sacramento River Wildlife Area is composed of 3770 acres of wildlife habitat lying within the lower floodplain of the Sacramento River. The area is composed of riparian habitat that includes gravel bars, sloughs and backwater areas, riparian forests and various communities of scrub and grassland vegetation. All of the project area is frequently flooded and, where public levees exist, it is located entirely within those levees. The Wildlife Area is composed of thirteen separate Units of land area along a seventy-mile reach of the river. Approximately 55% of the area adjoins other riparian habitat that publicly or privately owned, 40% adjoins agricultural crops that are privately owned and 5% adjoins public levees with roads or highways adjacent to them.

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:**

No other public agency approval is required for the adoption of the Comprehensive Management Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

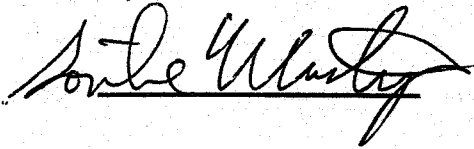
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. *Note: No impact to any factor has been determined to be potentially significant.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this Initial Study:

- X I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.



4/26/04 2004
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**Standardized CEQA Checklist**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
native wildlife nursery sites?				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in ' 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to ' 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is				

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unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS B Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

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h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY				
-- Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
levee or dam?				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XI. NOISE B Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

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within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XIV. RECREATION --				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Supplemental Comments to the Checklist

I. Aesthetics

a, b, c. The project will preserve riparian habitat that is an important part of the scenic vistas in the Sacramento Valley. It will not damage scenic resources or degrade the existing visual character of the area.

II. Agricultural Resources

a. The majority of the property in the Wildlife Area has not been in agricultural use. Less than 25 % of the property had been in agricultural use in the past. The Wildlife Area is located on low-lying property that is adjacent to the river and floods frequently (inundation frequency from one to five years). The area adjacent to the river contains a variety of soil conditions that range from gravel bars to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

It is possible, though not known at this time, that subsequent actions may involve the acquisition and conversion of some land classified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. If so such acquisition will be tied to a voluntary decision on the part of the landowner to terminate agricultural use. Past experience indicates that any such acquisitions would be in marginal agricultural areas where there are significant practical difficulties for farming which include frequent flooding, erosion by channel meander, access problems due to avulsive changes and areas that are too small to constitute an economic unit for economical farming. Any such future acquisition would require subsequent analysis when the specifics of a project are established.

b. The existing Wildlife Area is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designations for the area. Similarly any potential future acquisitions of habitat would likely be in an area where the existing general plan and zoning designations permit riparian habitat.

IV. Biological Resources

a, b, c, d. The Wildlife Area is specifically managed with an Ecosystem Approach to benefit Special Status Species, other native species and game species. All activities will be in conformance with State and federal endangered species regulations and will be evaluated for potential impacts on Special Status Species. Natural wetland areas that provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat will be protected and migrational corridors will be maintained.

f. This Plan does not conflict with any Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan. It is specifically developed to be consistent with the *Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook*.

V. Cultural Resource

a,b,c,d. This Plan incorporates a Cultural Resources Analysis which evaluated the potential for impact on historic and archaeological resources. There are no recorded cultural sites in the Wildlife Area. No substantive physical changes to the Wildlife Area will occur without site specific evaluation by qualified professionals. The Cultural Resources Analysis also specifies procedures if any cultural resources are found in the future.

VI. Geology and Soils

b. The Wildlife Area is adjacent to the Sacramento River where the natural riverine processes include constant erosion and deposition. No change to that natural process is proposed. These natural processes create and maintain riparian habitat and support the riparian ecosystem.

VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

h. The Wildlife Area is located in a floodplain where there are very few structures or people. Local, State and federal regulations also severely restrict the potential to build new structures in the floodplain area. The Wildlife Area is subject to the same basic potential for fire as other privately and publicly-owned habitat property along the river. This Plan recommends firebreaks in any new active horticultural restoration projects, coordination with local fire protection agencies and development of appropriate fire protection strategies to ensure that the fire potential is managed.

VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality

c, d. No change to the existing drainage patterns on any site is proposed. Past activities in the Wildlife Area have not involved a change in drainage patterns and there is no proposal for any a change in drainage patterns in the future.

e, h, i. The Wildlife Area is composed of low-lying areas that flood frequently. It is within a flood damage control system (the Sacramento River Flood Control Project) where the subject property is expected to be inundated frequently. Frequent flooding is expected to continue in this area.

It is possible, though not known at this time, that proposed, subsequent actions may involve the active horticultural restoration of limited portions of the Wildlife Area to supplement the natural processes and help restore riparian habitat. It is also possible, though not known at this time, that modification of some bank protection may be proposed. Any such project would require subsequent analysis when the specifics of a project are established. Lacking the specifics of any such projects, it is not practically possible to evaluate the impacts of such projects. If such projects are proposed, however, they are legally required to be reviewed and approved by the Reclamation Board to ensure that the integrity of the flood damage control system is maintained and no significant impacts occur. This Plan provides for the preparation of appropriate hydrologic analysis and the design of any future active horticultural restoration projects or other projects to meet the standards of the Reclamation Board.

XIII. Public Services

a. The intensity and frequency of public use in the Wildlife Area is historically very low. This Plan contains provisions for additional coordination with local public service and law enforcement agencies to deal with any future impacts as well as the proposal for additional Department law enforcement staffing..

XV. Transportation / Traffic

a, b. There is very limited road access to the Wildlife Area and the level of traffic generated by the low intensity use of the area is very small. It is possible, though not known at this time, that subsequent actions may involve the acquisition of rights of way for additional public land access to the Wildlife Area. Any such project would require subsequent analysis when the specifics of a project are established. Notwithstanding, it is reasonably expected that any traffic increase generated by future users of the Wildlife Area would be very small and well within the capacity of roadways in the area.

XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance

a. This Plan is supportive of habitat and wildlife species and cultural resources. It does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the

range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b. This Plan does not authorize any substantive physical changes and any unknown, future projects would require subsequent analysis when the specifics of a project are established. There are no impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable to the point of significance.

c. This Plan provides for compliance with all applicable laws and requirements. It does not authorize any substantive physical changes and any unknown future projects would require subsequent analysis when the specifics of a project are established. It will not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Notice of Determination

Form C

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) State of California
Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Comprehensive Management Plan for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area
Project Title

SCH# 2003112097
State Clearinghouse Number
(If submitted to Clearinghouse)

Teresa Le Blanc
Lead Agency
Contact Person

916-445-3499
Area Code/Telephone/Extension

Thirteen separate Units along the Sacramento River between Woodson Bridge and the City of Colusa (River Mile 215 to 145), located in Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Counties

Project Location (include county)

Project Description:

The project is a programmatic plan for the continued management of the existing 3770-acre Sacramento River Wildlife Area for fish and wildlife habitat and for compatible public use.

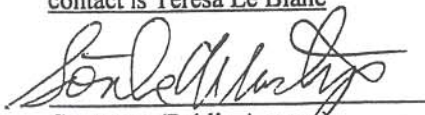
This is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Game has approved the above described project on

4/26/04 Lead Agency
(Date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration is available to the General Public at:

Department of Fish and Game, Lands and Facilities Branch at 1812 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814,
contact is Teresa Le Blanc


Signature (Public Agency)

4/26/04
Date

Dep. Director
Title

Date received for filing at OPR:

